



Delaware-Based Competitions and Grants

April, 2021

EDGE Grants


	Grant Amount 5 Grants up to \$100k for STEM-based 10 Grants up to \$25k for non-STEM businesses		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Host Organization Delaware Division of Small Business	Links: Homepage
EDGE Grants are intended for exactly what their acronym stands for—Encouraging Development, Growth & Expansion. This grant is given to small startups located in Delaware with less than 10 employees.	Eligibility Less than 5 years of operation Employ less than 10 people	Focus STEM/Entrepreneurship	Application Close 4/30/2021 Grants Awarded 15 total grants awarded early summer	Contact: Wilmington Area Joe Zilcosky Non-Wilmington Area of New Castle County David Mathe Kent County and Sussex County Laura Wisler https://business.delaware.gov/contact/	

Workforce Training Grant


	Grant Amount Matches grants that fund specialized training for companies up to \$100,000 per project		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Host Organization Delaware Division of Small Business	Links: Homepage
Workforce Training Grants are offered by the Delaware Division of Small Business to attract and retain quality jobs in the state of Delaware. They are also offered to create opportunities for advancement for Delaware employees.	Eligibility Applicants must demonstrate a need for the training, which should be related to new and innovative processes or programs, machinery, or tech-related upgrades.	Focus Workforce Training	Grants Awarded Grants are awarded after 45 days; once funding is exhausted no further applications will be accepted	Contact: Wilmington Area Joe Zilcosky Non-Wilmington Area of New Castle County David Mathe Kent County and Sussex County Laura Wisler https://business.delaware.gov/contact/	

Community Grants and Funding


Comcast RISE Program

	Program Rewards Advertising and Marketing Consultations TV Media Schedule Creative Production Tech Makeover Monetary Grant		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here) Applications Close 5/7/2021 Program Awards Recipients chosen quarterly	Host Organization Comcast	Links: Homepage
Comcast is providing services and upgrades to BIPOC-owned small businesses in need that have suffered through the pandemic.	Eligibility BIPOC-owned businesses	Focus Any Industry	Contact: General Contact 844-963-0234		


Nav Small Business Grant

	Grant Amount \$10,000 First Place \$5,000 Second Place		Application Open Open in April (Apply Here) Applications Close June 2021 Grants Awarded Quarterly	Host Organization Nav	Links: Homepage
A unique grant that is awarded quarterly through a social media voting process where the small business's customers can vote for their favorite small business. A large part of the application is a social media post, and they encourage creativity to win! Be on the lookout for the application to open so you can get started on the voting process right away!	Eligibility Must sign up for a free Nav membership and explain why you deserve the money	Focus Small Business	Contact: General Contact grants@nav.com		


Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

 Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program	Grant Amount Equal to 45% of venue's 2019 gross earned revenue or \$10M, whichever is less		Application Open 4/8/2021	Host Organization SBA	Links: Homepage
A grant for shuttered live entertainment venues that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain entities such as live venue promoters, theaters, museums, zoos, and more may be eligible to apply for grants.	Eligibility Live venue operators and promoters, theatrical producers, motion picture theater operators, and more as listed on the homepage	Focus Performing Arts	Applications Close To Be Announced Grants Awarded Dependent upon revenue loss (More revenue loss will receive grants first)	Contact: General Contact SVOGrant@sba.gov	


Amber Grant for Women

	Grant Amount \$4,000 winner once a month \$1,000 for runner-up \$25,000 once a year		Application Open First day of each month (Apply Here)	Host Organization WomensNet	Links: Homepage
A grant for women with businesses awarded in honor of Amber Wigdahl, who tragically passed away at the age of 19 before she was able to realize her business dreams.	Eligibility Must be a woman 18 years or older with a business	Focus Any Industry	Application Close Last day of each month Grants Awarded One winner each month	Contact: General Contact info@womensnet.net	


NASE Growth Grants

		Grant Amount \$4,000		Application Open Always Open to Members	Host Organization NASE	Links: Homepage Membership
A grant for small business owners that are members of the National Association for the Self-Employed to finance business needs.	Eligibility Must be a member of NASE for at least 3 months prior to applying	Focus Small Business	Applications Close N/A Grants Awarded Number given varies, grants awarded quarterly	Contact: NASE Grants Administrator grants_scholarships@nase.org		

Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)

		Grant Amount Stage 1: Pilot (up to \$200K) Stage 2: Test and Position for Scale (up to \$1.5M) Stage 3: Transition to Scale (up to \$5M) Evidence Grants: (up to \$1.5M)		Application Open Always Open (Apply Here) Grants Awarded 10-20 awarded per year (1-2% of applicants)	Host Organization USAID	Links: Homepage
Multiple stages of grants for innovators and researchers to test new ideas and solutions that can change the world and help improve people's lives.	Eligibility Determine if you are eligible using the DIV Questionnaire	Focus Any Industry	Contact: General Contact div@usaid.gov			


J.M.K. Innovation Prize

	Prize Amount \$150,000 over three years, plus \$25,000 in technical assistance funds		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here) Application Close 4/30/2021	Host Organization J.M. Kaplan Fund	Links: Homepage
Competition that seeks to identify, support, and elevate innovators who are spearheading transformative early-stage projects in the fields of social justice, the environment, and heritage conservation. Awards non-profits and mission-driven for-profit organizations working in these areas.	Eligibility Non-Profit or Mission-Driven For-Profit	Focus Social Entrepreneurship	Final Rounds Fall 2021	Contact: General Contact JMKinnoVationPrize@JMKFund.org	


What's Your Pitch?

	Cash Prizes \$40,000+ (\$20,000 to winner)	In-Kind Prizes Coaching sessions, free PR, advertising, mentorship opportunities	Application Open Open Now (Apply Here) Application Close 4/30/2021	Location Virtual	Links: Homepage
A startup funding competition put on by the USPAACC, the most established and largest organization representing Asian American business in the United States. The competition is open to all startups and offers winning early-stage businesses cash and in-kind prizes for their pitches.	Eligibility Must be for-profit, cannot have raised more than \$1 million in equity capital other than from friends and family	Focus Any Industry	Final Rounds July 2021	Contact: General Contact celeb@uspaacc.com	

Bell Labs Prize

	Cash Prizes \$175,000 (\$100,000 to winner)		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Location Virtual	Links: Homepage
<p>A competition run by Nokia Bell Labs that awards individuals and small businesses that find solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing the information and telecommunications industry.</p>	Eligibility Must be 21 or older, own your ideas, and possess a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree	Focus Information and Telecommunications	Application Close 5/14/2021 Final Rounds 6/30/2021	Contact: General Contact BL.Prize@nokia.com	

Preventing Violence Affecting Young Lives Grant

	Grant Amount Average award of \$250,000		Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)	Host Organization Centers for Disease Control - NCIPC	Links: Homepage
<p>This grant is an effort for small businesses and nonprofits in high-violence areas to help their communities develop plans to protect their youth and help them when they are put in danger. Businesses will receive a large grant to work with local government and the CDC to develop strategies to promote protection in their community.</p>	Eligibility Any kind of business is eligible	Focus Any Industry	Program Awards The grant is awarded in September, and winners will participate in the program for multiple years following their award	Contact: Corey Lumpkin hik1@cdc.gov	

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

United States Division of Agriculture (USDA)

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs are competitive programs that encourage small businesses to engage in federal research and development projects with the potential for commercialization. Each agency offers a list of broad research topics, and you may find that your business already takes part in one or more of the topics offered. If so, you may be eligible to apply for a grant. Below is a list of topics currently being considered for SBIR grant awards by the USDA.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Production and Protection • Aquaculture • Biofuels and Biobased Products • Conservation of Natural Resources • Food Science and Nutrition • Forests and Related Resources • Plant Production and Protection - Biology • Plant Production and Protection – Engineering • Rural and Community Development • Small and Mid-Size Farms 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic range from \$50,000 to \$650,000 depending on scale of project and SBIR Phase. Contact USDA for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
	<p>If any of these topics interest you, read more about the specific opportunities in this document</p>
	<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 5/3/2021</p>
	<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics</p>
	<p>For more information about the USDA SBIR programs, contact Kelly McDonald: kelly.mcdonald2@usda.gov</p>

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation (NSF)


<p>Below is a list of topics currently being offered by the NSF for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant opportunities.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Analytics • Advanced Manufacturing • Advanced Materials • Artificial Intelligence • Augmented/Virtual Reality • Biological Technologies • Chemical Technologies • Cloud and High-Performance Technologies • Cybersecurity and Authentication • Digital Health • Distributed Ledger • Energy Technologies • Environmental Technologies • Human-Computer Interaction • Instrumentation and Hardware Systems • Internet of Things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and Cognition Technologies • Medical Devices • Mobility • Nanotechnology • Other Topics • Pharmaceutical Technology • Photonics • Power Management • Quantum Information Technologies • Robotics • Semiconductors • Space • Wireless Technologies 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic range from \$5,000 to \$256,000 depending on scale of project and SBIR Phase. Contact NSF for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
		<p>If any of these topics interest you, refer to this document to find the contact that is associated with your topic of interest</p>
		<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 6/3/2021</p>
		<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics.</p>
		<p>To view more subtopics of these individual topics, view the original NSF posting on the SBIR website.</p>

SBIR/STTR Funding Opportunities

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

<p>Below is a list of topics currently being offered by the HHS for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant opportunities.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing Imaging, Device Production, and Clinical Capabilities in Digital Dentistry. • BRAIN Initiative: Development Optimization, and Validation of Novel Tools and Technologies for Neuroscience Research • Innovative Technologies for HIV Behavioral and Social Science Research • Novel Tools for Investigating Brain-Derived GPCRs in Mental Health Research 	<p>Grant amounts for each topic for up to \$150,000 in Phase I and up to \$1,000,000 for Phase II depending on scale of project. Contact HHS for more details on specific amounts for each topic.</p>
	<p>To view all the the HHS listings directly on the SBIR website, click here.</p>
	<p>Applications Open Now Applications Close: 9/5/2021</p>
	<p>Apply here if your business is already involved with one of these topics.</p>
	<p>For general information about these grants, contact GrantsInfo@nih.gov</p>

Federal Funding Opportunities (General)


 <p>GRANTS.GOVSM FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.SM</p>	<p>This is a website where government agencies post grant opportunities. Use the search tool to find grants that can be used for your small business.</p>	<p>Grants</p>
 <p>US GRANTS ORG</p>	<p>This is a database that allows you to search for all kinds of grants, and even allows you to sign up for weekly grant alerts so you never miss opportunities to receive funding.</p>	<p>Grants</p>
 <p>GrantWatchTM Time to apply</p>	<p>GrantWatch is a database that takes government and foundation grants and puts them into user-friendly summaries. They make it easy to search for grants that apply to your small business.</p>	<p>Grants</p>
 <p>MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</p>	<p>The Minority Business Development Agency is devoted to helping minority-owned businesses grow in size and scale. They do this through workshops, initiatives, and grants that can all be found on their website.</p>	<p>Visit Website</p>
 <p>Challenge.gov</p>	<p>This site is used by the federal government to post prize competitions and challenges. These are used to get ideas directly from the public such as software, technologies, and other solutions that your business may already be developing. Check to see if you can win funding from any challenges.</p>	<p>Challenges</p>

University-Sponsored Competitions

Milken-Penn GSE Education Business Plan Competition

<p>MILKEN ~ PENN GSE Education Business Plan Competition & Conference</p>	<p>Cash Prizes \$70,000+ (\$40,000 to winner)</p>	<p>In-Kind Prizes \$40,000+ in Amazon Web Services credits and more</p>	<p>Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)</p>	<p>Location University of Pennsylvania and Virtual</p>	<p>Links: Homepage Past Winners</p>
<p>Considered to be the most prestigious and well-funded education business plan competition in the world, this competition has awarded entrepreneurs of all ages with more than \$1.4 million in cash prizes since 2010.</p>	<p>Eligibility Open to all, no age/university application requirements</p>	<p>Focus Education</p>	<p>Application Close 4/20/2021</p> <p>Final Rounds 10/5/2021</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact educomp@gse.upenn.org</p>	

Collegiate Inventors Competition

	<p>Cash Prizes Up to \$15,000 for 3 Winners</p>	<p>Application Open Open Now (Apply Here)</p>	<p>Location Virtual</p>	<p>Links: Homepage Past Winners</p>	
<p>An essay-based competition for startups to explain their business and how they believe their product will benefit certain aspects of society. This competition is STEM-focused, and the awards are based off the applications. Patented products are not eligible.</p>	<p>Eligibility Full-time students enrolled in a U.S. college or university</p>	<p>Focus STEM</p>	<p>Application Close 6/7/2021</p> <p>Final Rounds To Be Announced</p>	<p>Contact: General Contact collegiate@invent.org</p>	